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Public Health Reports

Treasury Department, United States Marine-Hospital Service. Published in accordance with act of Congress approved February 15, 1893.

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UNITED STATES.

[Reports to the Supervising Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

Yellow fever at McHenry, Miss.

The following telegram, dated McHenry, Miss., June 9, 1898, was received from Surgeon Murray, U. S. Marine-Hospital Service :

Haralson discovered 7 cases ; I came overland and confirmed ; will guard town to-night ; Carter to come to-morrow for consultation ; I notified Mobile and New Orleans ; will try to dispatch safe persons ; advisable to send people in special cars to Fontainebleau, but special train not necessary.

On the 10th Surgeon Murray further informed the Bureau that Surgeon Carter of the Marine-Hospital Service and Doctors Gil and Haralson of the State board, were hunting suspects ; that 1 new case had been discovered, making 8 in four houses on the north side of the village ; railroad inspection between New Orleans and Mobile and on the Gulfport and Ship Island Railroad, and house-to-house inspection of the villages on the road, instituted ; passenger traffic stopped, but mails and freight continued.

McHenry is a small village located on the Gulfport and Ship Island Railroad ; census of the town shows 323 white and 67 colored persons ; 30 immune, with 8 cases of yellow fever in 5 houses and 8 foci.

On the 11th a cordon was established around the town, and 8 houses specially guarded in addition, 5 of which contain the sick ; 3 are suspected of foci. Surgeon Carter proceeded to Hattiesburg to arrange train inspection and house-to-house inspection.

June 12: No new cases nor new foci; disinfection begun; all mail, including that of the 9th, fumigated.

June 13: Total number of cases of yellow fever since May 20 is 15; 1 new case on the 13th, making a total of 9 on hand at this date; no deaths. Foci of disease reduced from 8 to 6; cleaning of the town is now progressing under Dr. Haralson. Camp Fontainebleau open for refugees; State board of health of Mississippi has ordered that people entering other portions of the State from Jackson, Harrison, and Hancock counties must have certificates from Camp Fontainebleau.

June 14: Surgeon Murray left McHenry with camp train and 17 refugees for Camp Fontainebleau. No new cases. Passed Assistant Surgeon J. H. White, U. S. M. H. S., ordered to Camp Fontainebleau. Dr. J. F. Hunter, secretary Mississippi State board of health, telegraphed that the report of yellow fever at Hattiesburg and Shubuta is untrue.

June 15: No new cases, no deaths; 21 guests received at Camp Fontainebleau up to date. No report of suspicious cases at any other place in the South.

June 16: Investigation of reported suspected cases at Bond, Miss., proved report to be unfounded. The disease is confined to McHenry. No new cases. Everything looks favorable.

Copy of correspondence relative to vessels under supervision of the naval authorities transporting refugees, etc., from infected ports.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., June 8, 1898.

SIR: I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 14 stating that, in reply to the request made in my letter of May 3d, the commandant of the United States Naval Station at Key West and the Commander-in-Chief of the North Atlantic Squadron have been furnished with copies of my letter, and have been instructed to keep an outlook and to apprehend any small vessels which it is believed intend to effect a surreptitious landing on the Florida coast.

In addition to this precaution, I have to request that the proper officers of your Department be directed to forbid the transportation from Cuban, or other ports, liable to be infected with yellow fever, on any of the vessels under the supervision of the naval authorities, of any refugees, also baggage, clothing, merchandise, or other material capable of conveying infection, which is not strictly military or naval in character.

I am informed by the Surgeon-General of the Marine-Hospital Service that there is little apprehension of danger with regard to regular vessels of the Navy, but that unusual care is necessary with regard to prize vessels and auxiliary vessels which do not carry medical officers, and I have to make additional request that through the proper officers orders be given that the quarantine regulations relating to the disinfection of suspected vessels and contents, and detention in quarantine of persons who have been exposed to yellow fever be strictly complied with. This matter has been placed before Commodore Remey at Key West, who concurs in this recommendation.

I have the honor to remain, respectfully yours,

L. J. GAGE, *Secretary.*

HON. SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.